



## Who's Your Nineveh

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and cry against it. Jonah did not want to go. He did not want to go so bad, that he took a ship in the opposite direction. When the sea became contrary and threatened to break the ship apart, the crew ascertained that it was because of Jonah. But Jonah preferred death at sea over

to going to Nineveh. He disliked the Ninevites so much that he would rather die than give them a chance at repentance – they were that bad (read about them online sometime for more info on this). And we all know the rest of the story. Jonah went to Nineveh the hard way. He preached. They repented. God's will was accomplished.

Often there is something like going to Nineveh to preach that God wants us to do that we do not want to do. Sometimes it is a person that He wants us to love and we don't want to, just as Jonah did not want to love the Ninevites. Maybe they have mistreated us, or mistreated someone we care about. Maybe they are a difficult person in some way. Maybe they have been evil in the past. Maybe we just don't feel like we have the time. There are myriads of reasons we come up with to avoid going to Nineveh. We can often tell that we are running from God and avoiding our Nineveh because our ship is breaking apart around us in some way. Maybe our marriage is falling apart – if so, perhaps our spouse is our Nineveh, and God wants us to love them more than we are currently doing. Maybe our children's lives are breaking apart – perhaps they are our Nineveh, and God wants us to spend more time with them, cry out against the culture that is dragging them away from God, etc. Maybe one or more of our friendships is breaking apart, one of our friends is our Nineveh, and we need to invest in that relationship more than we have been. There are many possibilities. Sometimes our disobedience hurts the people around us rather than us. Jonah was asleep in the ship while the crew feared for their lives. They had to throw their cargo overboard, Jonah's disobedience was costing them.

So who is your Nineveh? Who is paying for your disobedience to God? Who would you rather die than go to in humility and do what God is telling you to do? Who has God asked you to love? Who has God asked you to share the gospel with? Who has God asked you to serve? Are you doing it or are you running away from Him like Jonah, going in the opposite direction? Is your ship breaking apart in some way? How is your marriage? How are your children doing? Your friends? Your co-workers? Is life contrary to you in some way? Has the sea turned violent and is it threatening to destroy some aspect of your life? Are the waves bashing against the lives of the people around you? What is God saying to you? For a clue to who your Nineveh is, look for the areas of your life that are breaking apart, areas of your life where you or others are struggling, not doing as well as could be. And rather than ignoring this or moving away from it, fleeing to Tarshish as Jonah did, chose to head straight into it. Move towards your Nineveh in obedience. You won't regret it.

I have always told my sons they we are all going to go to Nineveh. We can go by boat or we can go by fish. The choice is ours. But be certain of this, we are all going to go to Nineveh. How we get there is our choice. Choose the boat.